

**Boulder Public Library Commission Retreat**  
**July 11, 2015**  
**Main Library, Boulder Creek Meeting Room**  
**8 am – 3 pm**

**Outcomes of Morning Session**

- ❖ Deep dive into trends and future roles of public libraries
- ❖ Considerations for library master plan
- ❖ Networking among commissioners, library staff, and foundation about future of BPL

**Attendees**

**8 am – 1 pm**

- ❖ Library Commissioners
- ❖ Boulder Library Foundation Leadership
- ❖ Library Staff
- ❖ Facilitators – Sharon Morris, State Library and Jennifer Miles
- ❖ Presenter – Pam Sandlian Smith, Anythink & Aspen Institute Report Advisory Member

**1-3 pm**

- ❖ Library Commissioners
- ❖ David Farnan and Jennifer Miles

**Participant Preparation – Please read the following resources before the retreat**

- ❖ Bring list of 3-5 of the most compelling ideas for the future of libraries from the reading materials below or other resources.

Rising to the Challenge: Re-Envisioning Public Libraries. [The Aspen Institute Report]  
<http://csreports.aspeninstitute.org/Dialogue-on-Public-Libraries/2014/library/details/50/Libraries-2014-Report>

Library as Infrastructure. By Shannon Mattern  
<https://placesjournal.org/article/library-as-infrastructure/>

ALA's Confronting the Future: Strategic Visions for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Library  
[http://www.ala.org/offices/sites/ala.org.offices/files/content/oitp/publications/policybriefs/confronting\\_the\\_futu.pdf](http://www.ala.org/offices/sites/ala.org.offices/files/content/oitp/publications/policybriefs/confronting_the_futu.pdf)

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**Agenda**

- 8:00 – 8:30 Coffee & Pastries; Informal meet and greet
- 8:30 – 8:45 Introductions & Three things you love about the library?  
Review outcomes, agenda, process, roles
- 8:45 – 9:00 Table discussion 1\* – Community - Future of Boulder (notes person in each group takes notes on flipchart paper)
- ☐ What are current issues facing the community? (5 minutes)
  - ☐ Possible future issues of community? (5 minutes)
  - ☐ What are community interests for the library? (5 min.)
- 9:00 – 9:10 Report out. Each group reports only unique items.
- 9:10 – 9:25 Table discussion 2\* – Future trends of libraries (participants go to a new table)
- ☐ Brainstorm - What are major trends in libraries – where are libraries heading? (notes person in each group takes notes on flip chart paper)
- 9:25 – 9:35 ☐ Participants at each table discuss which are the highest priority for BPL (particularly as it relates to where the community is headed)
- 9:35 – 9:45 Report out on highest priority trends for BPL to focus on
- 9:45 – 10:00 All group discussion
- ☐ Select top 4-6 most exciting trends or urgent needs for Boulder
- 10:00 – 10:15 Break
- 10:15 – 10:45 Aspen Institute Report – Presentation by Pam Smith
- 10:45 – 11:00 Group discussion – Questions and responses to report as it relates to BPL
- 11:00 – 11:15 Group Activity - BPL Strengths & Assets – Paper with titles for Library Leadership (Commissioners, Foundation, etc.), Staff, Collections, Facilities, Funding & Support, Technology, Partners, Programs & Services, Other (participants can use sticky notes to create these lists)
- 11:15 – 11:30 Group discussion – What are challenges?

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11:30 – 11:45   Review and Synthesize – Sharon Morris

11:50 – 12:00   Next steps, Thank You, etc. (David Farnan)

12:00 – 1:00   Lunch

1:00 – 3:00   Library Commission debrief - How does this inform the master plan? List of considerations for future meetings; timeline of planning, etc. (directions, funding, partnerships, activities)

\*Logistics for table discussions – one facilitator/spokesperson, one note taker, general brainstorming/writing on paper, last three minutes are to select and highlight top 2-3 key areas. Switch table groups each time. Each table is a mix of commissioners, staff, and foundation leaders.